

5  
1144

★

DISCOURSE  
OF  
SEA-PORTS;

Principally of the  
*Port and Haven of Dover.*

Written by Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, and Address'd  
to Queen *Elizabeth.*

With useful Remarks, &c. on that Subject, by Com-  
mand of his late Majesty K. *Charles the Second.*

---

Never before made Publick.

---

L O N D O N:

Printed for and Sold by *John Nutt*, near  
*Stationers-Hall.* 1700.  
Price 6d.

DISCOURSE

SEA-PORT

Principally of the

Port and Haven of Dover

Written by Sir William Rumbold and Adm. M.  
to Queen Elizabeth

With several Remarks, &c. on the State of the  
Mind of his late Majesty R. Charles the Second

Printed in the Year 1700

LONDON

Printed and Sold by John Smith, near  
St. Dunstons Church, 1700.

Printed by

To the Right Honourable

THE

Earl of Rumney,

Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, &c.

My Lord,

**T**He Publisher of this Discourse has no other motive of his Address to your Lordship, than that the Design may receive Protection from some Powerful Hand, by which being Shelter'd in its Infancy from the blasts of Malevolence (which will blow from more corners than one) it may have leave to strike Root and grow to strength enough to be able to stand alone. The Subject Matter seems to belong to your Lordship in Propriety as you are Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and the Patronage of so Noble and National a Project cou'd be claim'd no where so rightfully as from your Lordship, who being equally great by Birth, Power, the Favour of your Prince and the Love of your Country; I cou'd not withstand the Justice of making this Oblation of my Duty and Good-wishes to your Lordship, by thus tendering it to your Election to be the Father and Protector of so Needful and Magnificent a Work, abounding in Publick Honour, Safety and Emolument; whereby you may consign your Name to Posterity, by a Monument more durable and of greater dignity than the Records and Patents of your Ancestors or the Statues of Antiquity.

The Manuscript fell casually into my hands during the last Session of Parliament, which being relish'd by such Worthy Members of that Honourable Body as I had an Opportunity to impart it to, I thought I could not do a more Grateful Office to my Country, than to be the means of its Publication, for which freedom I ask the Authors pardon, as I do your Lordship's for the presumption of this Dedication: who am,

Your Lordship's most Humble and Dutiful Servant,

To the Right Honourable

THE

Earl of Runcorn

Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed alterations in the regulations of the Cinque Ports, and in reply to inform you that the same have been forwarded to the Admiralty for their consideration. I am, however, to beg to assure you that the same will be given the most careful consideration, and that every effort will be made to bring about the most satisfactory arrangement possible.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
John Lubbock

Your Lordship's most Obedient and Dutiful Servant



A  
MEMORIAL

OF

*Sir Walter Raleigh to Q. Elizabeth*  
*Touching the Port of Dover.*

*A Brief Discourse, declaring how Honourable and Profitable to your most Excellent Majesty, and how Necessary and Commodious for your Realm, the making of Dover Haven shall be, and in what sort, what least Charges in greatest Perfection the same may be Accomplish'd.*

**T**Here is no one thing, most renowned Sovereign, of greater necessity to maintain the Honour and Safety of this your Majesty's Realm, than by all convenient means to encrease Navigation, Shipping and Mariners, these being a strength in time of War; and in time of Peace, Members most Profitable and Commodious.

But this can neither be had, encreased, nor maintained, if First, sure Harbours be not provided, as Safe Receptacle to Receive and guard them from Storms, Enemies, &c.

B

This

This hath moved that Industrious Nation of the low Countrys in *Holland*, *Zealand* and *Flanders*, where, by Reason of their Sandy Coast, tho' God hath scarcely in any Place allow'd them any good *Havens* Natural, yet seeing the Necessity and Commodity of Harbours, they have, without regard of any Charges or Travel, with Infinite Expences, made many *Havens* Artificial, even in such Places as Nature denyed them all the hopes of help; Whereby we see they have drawn such Intercourse and Traffick both of Foreign Nations for Merchandize, and also by their Industry for Fishing, that in few Years (almost in our Age) they have been able to Build a Number of most Sumptuous, Rich, and Beautiful Cities, furnish'd the Coast with a great Number of Ships and Mariners, and are become the most Populous and Rich Nation the Sun did ever shine on; And not only the Sea Coasts, but also the Inland Countreys, by quick vent of their Commodities, do Participate of the same Benefit and Felicity; And such their Charges on *Havens* and Harbours bestowed, do yeild them the Fruit of Riches, Wealth, and Commodity most plentiful throughout their whole Dominion.

But contrary-wise, with us this last Parliament, lamentable Relation hath been made of the great Decay of Mariners and Fishermen, to the Number of many Hundred Sail upon our Coast of *England*, even in this Age, and within Memory; And also of the present Poverty, and Desolate Habitation of many Frontier Towns.

Whereby it plainly appeareth, That as the Excessive Expence of the Low Countreys bestow'd on *Havens*, hath not Impoverish'd, but the clean contrary, greatly Enrich'd them by Incomparable Wealth and Treasure, with Number of Rich, Fair and Populous Towns; So our Sparing Mind, or rather greedy Getting, Gaining, and Enriching Land from your Majesty's *Havens* and Navigable Channels, hath utterly Destroy'd and Spoiled many good *Havens* by Nature left us, and thereby wrought very Beggary, Misery and Desolation in these your Frontier Towns.

And

And if we Search the very cause of the Flourishing State of London, which almost alone in Quantity, People, and Wealth in this Age or Realm is so increas'd, and contrary-wise of the Poverty or rather Beggary and Decay of *Winchelsea, Ryé, Rumney, Hide, Dover*, and many other Poor Towns, we shall find the Decay of these *Havens*, and Preservation of the Thames, the only or chief Occasion.

Hereby sufficiently appeareth how Incomparable Jewells *Havens*, and sure Harbours are for Gaining, Maintaining and Encreasing People, Wealth and Commodity in any Realm.

And no lesser Strength and Security do they bring in time of War, as well by the Multitude of Mariners (a most Serviceable People) and Shipping, which they Breed, as also the Inhabitation of the Frontiers.

But in the whole Circuit of this your Majesty's Famous Island, there is not any one either in Respect of Security and Defence, or of Traffick or Intercourse, more convenient, Needful, or rather of Necessity to be Regarded than this of *Dover*, Situate on a Promontory next Fronting a Puissant Foreign King, and in the very Freight Passage and Intercourse of almost all the Shipping of *Christendom*.

And if that our Renowned King, your Majesty's Father, of Famous Memory, *Henry the 8th* in his time, found how Necessary it was to make a *Haven* at *Dover* (when *Sandwich, Rey, Camber* and others were good *Havens*, and *Calais* also then in his Possession) and yet spared not to bestow of his own Treasure, so great a mass in building of that Pier, which then Secur'd a Probable mean to perform the same: How much more is the same now needful, or rather of Necessity (those good *Havens* being extreamly decay'd) no safe Harbour being left in all the Coast almost between *Portsmouth* and *Yarmouth*: Seeing the same also may be perform'd without the Expence of your Majesty's Private Treasure, the present Gift of Parliament consider'd, and their ready Wills so plainly discover'd, to supply whatsoever charge shall be needful, whensoever by your Gracious Providence they shall see the Realm arm'd with such a Shield, and endow'd with so great a Jewel.

The

*The Commodities that thereby both to Your Majesty and Realm shall ensue, are.*

*First, A Place of Refuge and Safeguard to all Merchants, your Majesty's Subjects, who Passing from London, and all other the East and North Parts of England, to France, Spain, Barbary, the Levant, the Islands or other parts South, or West of the World, for want of Harbour at Dover, either going forth or returning, shall be enforced to Ride it out in open Road, to their great Peril, or in time of War, for want of such Succour, to Throw themselves on the contrary Coast into the Arms of their Enemies.*

*For all other Strangers, your Majesty's Friends, that pass the Sea from Hambrough, Danzick, Lubeck, Embden, Scotland, Denmark or any parts of the Low Countreys, to any parts of the World, South, and South-West, (whereof there are daily great Numbers) or of Spain, Portugal, France or Italy, bound Northward, either to London, or any of the Northern Provinces, both passing and repassing, they must of necessity Touch, as it were, upon this Promontory, and upon any change of Wind, or Fear of Enemy, for sure Refuge, will most willingly and thankfully Embrace so sweet and safe a Sanctuary.*

*No Promontory, Town or Haven of Christendom, is so plac'd by Nature and Situation, both to Gratifie Friends and Annoy Enemies as this your Majesties Town of Dover.*

*No Place or Town of Christendom, is so settled to receive and deliver Intelligence for all Matters and Actions in Europe from time to time.*

*No Town of all the Low Countreys, altho by their Industry they have a great Number, Excessive Populous, Fair and Rich, is by Nature so settled, either to Allure Intercourse by Sea, or to Train Inhabitants by Land, to make it Great, Fair, Rich and Populous.*

*For alluring Intercourse by Sea there is already sufficient said.*

*By Land, It hath better Air and Water, Two chief Elements, than all the Rich Towns in Holland and Zealand.*

*For Fire, The Countrey round about is far better Wooded than theirs, and the whole Shire wherein it standeth, and round*

about the Town it self the Soil is so well sorted for Arable and Pasture of all sorts; For Marsh and Meadows sufficiently furnish'd, as Heart of Man cannot wish or desire it better.

A Quarry of Stone at hand sufficient to Build both Town and Haven in most sufficient, large and Beautiful manner. There wanteth nothing by Land, Sea or Air that can be wish'd; And if those Industrious People of the Low Countrys had in all their Province such a Seat with like Commodities, they would make it a Spectacle to the World without Respect of Charge whatsoever.

There wanteth nothing but a Harbour, which when compass'd, all other parts of Peopling, Wealth and Strength will follow of it self.

A Marvellous Number of Poor People both by this Work, till the Haven is made, and after by the Shipping, Fishing, &c. will be Employ'd, who now for want of Work are Whip'd, Mark'd, and Hang'd.

The Quick uttering of Commodities, which always followeth by Increase of Intercourse, will cause all the Coast and Shire to be notably Manur'd and Peopled, not with Poor; Idle, But Painful, Industrious and Rich Persons, a great Ornament and Commodity in Peace, and sure defence in War, the same being the Frontier nearest Coast to a most Dangerous, Puissant, Active and Aspiring Neighbour.

The encrease of Navigation, Fishing and Traffick that hereby will grow, and the great Wealth and Commodity thereof arising will not be contain'd in one Shire alone, but pour'd forth into all parts of the Realm, to the great Relief of the Poor, and Contentation of all Degrees, Encreasing of Arts and Occupations, a Patern whereof we may behold even in our next Neighbours the Low Countrys; not Feign'd in Imagination, but actually by them put in Execution, and great shame it were for us, to despair attaining that, which we see others our Neighbours have Atcheiv'd before us.

As the whole Realm in General, So your Majesty also in Respect of your Particular Revenue, shall Reap great Profit by



Encrease of Subsidies, which always will grow greater, together with the Wealth of the Land, besides the increase of Customs and such other Revenues as shall be there made of the Soil there gain'd from the Seas.

The Shire of *Kent* being within few Years grown marvellous industrious in Tilling and Manuring their Grounds, when they shall see so convenient a Port to Vend their Superfluous Commodities, will not only increase in Wealth and People, but also Yield to your Majesty's Coffers for Transportation of their excise in Wheat, Barley and Beer, great Increase of Reveunes; And all other Shires taking Example by them, will likewise grow in Labour, Industry, Wealth and People.

There can be no Pitch, Tar, Masts, Cables, or other Tackle for Shipping, pass from *Danzick*, *Denmark* or other Northern Parts to *France*, *Spain* or *Italy*, but your Majesty having a strong Hand of Shipping at *Dover*, may Command for Money the choice thereof before any King in *Christendom* in time of Peace; And so time of War, thereby also Disable Enemies and content Friends, Besides the Infinite Commodity that may happily grow to the whole Nation in General, and to your Majesty's Coffers also by a staple, that in time, with good Policy may be Erected there to serve both South and North Countreyes with there Mutual Commodities.

In time of War how Dangerous attempt may be made with small Frigats of Fire, or other wise, to Endanger your Majesty's Navy where it now lieth, with hope sufficient to escape and Return again before any Shipping can be made out of the Thames to Rescue or Revenge, the Expertest Souldiers, and Seamen best know: But this Harbour being made and furnish'd with good Shipping, as always it will be, no such attempt will ever be made, the Enemy being assur'd, however the Wind Blow, upon any Alarm either from *London* or *Dover*, to be surpriz'd, and no hope left to escape.

Your Majesty having Shipping at *Dover*, may also upon all suddainness, with lesser Charge, set forth to Scour the Seas of Pirates, whereby your Navy of Merchants will Marvellously increase



increase and Flourish, both in the great Strength and Wealth of the Realm, and to the great Increase of your Majesty's Customes

In like sort your Fishing Navies may be Maintain'd and Protected from Pilfering Pyrates, or other Violence of Strangers, and thereby Reap the Benefit of your Seas, whereby our strength by Sea will Marvellously increase, and great Number of poor People be Employ'd as well on Land in Knitting Nets, and making and mending both Ships and Tackle, as also in getting of Fish, a Food greatly to Relieve the Poverty of the Realm, and excessively to increase your Majesty's Revenue, by Custom of such Commodities as shall be brought in abundantly for exchanging of those our Fish.

The Fishing Navies being by this means both protected and greatly increas'd, all Laws for Punishment, and Taxes for Relieving Idle and poor People, will then Cease; for there shall be no Person for Age or Sicknes, almost so Impotent but shall find hereby some Trade whereby to get their living, as by Example of the low Countrys we may plainly behold.

What greater Honour to your Majesty than like, as you are, (in Right of Inheritance) Lady of the Narrow Seas, so to be able indeed to Maintain that Seigniory, and to put the same in Execution at all times, as far forth as your Highness shall find convenient.

What greater Honour to your Majesty than to be the Founder of so Notable a Monument, lying in the Eye of almost all the Shipping of *Europe*, a thing to which your Majesty's Father Aspir'd, with the Expence of so great a Masse of his own Treasure.

What greater Honour than to be able in time of Peace or War to Protect Friends, and Offend Enemies more than any other Prince of *Europe*.

Seeing then it hath pleas'd God to leave unto this Realm such a Situation for a Port, and Town as all *Christendom* hath not the like, and Endow'd the same with all Commodities by Land and Sea that can be wish'd to make the Harbour Allure Intercourse, and Maintain Inhabitants; And that the same once perform'd

(in

(in all probable Discourse of Reason) shall bring such increase of Commodity, not only for Augmentation of your Majesty's particular Revenues, but also of Welfare and Riches to the whole Realm in General; the same also being a thing so needful, or rather of necessity, as well for succouring and Protecting Friends, as Annoying and Offending Enemies both in War and Peace; And that it hath pleas'd God in his Providence to Reserve the same as an Ornament of your time, to be now perform'd by your Majesty, and left as an Honourable Monument of your happy Reign to all Posterity, Methinks there remaineth no other Deliberation in this Case, but how most sufficiently and with greatest Perfection possible, most speedily, the same may be accomplish'd

And in Discharge of some part of my bounded Duty to the Advancement of your Majesty's Service, having not only heard by the Examination of the most ancient and skilful Mariners and Inhabitants in *Dover*, the True Estate of all Alterations there, for these 40 Years pass'd, But also my self seen and sound-ed all the Channells, Shelves and Roads there, and set them down exactly in *Plat*; having also conferr'd the Sundry Opinions of strangers, and also of our own Nation, for the Repairing or making a New *Haven* there, and comparing the same with what my self have seen put in Execution in sundry places of the Low Countrys, for making *Havens* Artificial, I have in the End Resolv'd upon one Form of *Plat*, which of all others (as well for the use and Commodity, when it is finish'd, as for the possibility, or rather for the Facility in making, for the Probability, or rather assur'd certainty of continuance, for avoiding great Waste of Timber, and saving a great Masse of Treasure) I find and Judge of most perfection. As albeit the Flemish *Plat*, in former conference of Commissioners, was adjudged of all others then Offer'd, the most probable; Yet upon due consideration, this *Plat*, I presume, will appear in all Respects more commodious, more feizable, more assur'd to continue; of far less cost in Maintenance, and at least 20000 £, lesser charge in making, as by the Articles of Explanation, and charges, more  
evi-

evidently may appear. This which I humbly present to your Majesty's Gracious Consideration, as a matter of great moment both in Peace and War, for your Highness's Service, for the great comfort of all the Navy of your Realm, and a Monument most Honourable, and none of the least to all posterity of your Majesty's most Gracious, Prosperous and Happy Reign.

The foregoing Discourse was part of a Memorial, drawn up either by Sir *Walter Raleigh* or Sir *Dudley Diggs*, which I found among the Rubbish of old papers while I had the Honour to serve in the Office of the Ordnance, and was Searching after Light into the Ancient History and Services of *Dover*, to which Curiosity I had divers motives, *viz.* I had made several Essays to awaken his late Majesty King *Charles* out of the Lethargie he seem'd to me to be under, upon the *French King's* so loudly Alarming us by the Profuse Expence he had been at in Fortifying his Coast, making Artificial Ports, and sparing no Coast where he had the least Prospect of Compassing Harbour and Defence for Shipping, and Improving his Naval Strength and Projects; which to me appear'd as so many *Comets*, whose Malevolence was Calculated, and could not fail, one time or other to fall on us. I had in those days, frequent occasions of Privacy with the King in his Closet, where I improv'd every Opportunity to Warm his Jealousy of the Growing Naval Power of *France*; And albeit he gave me many a Gracious Hearing, and seem'd to take Pleasure in my Discourse on that Subject, and would often himself Reason with great Sagacity on Naval Matters; yet I grew at length convinc'd, that I Labour'd in Vain, and had been all the while Blowing a Dead Coal, as by this short following Account may appear.

In the Year 1682 Waiting one day on the King in his Closet, after some General Discourse, his Majesty was pleas'd to tell me that I had often hinted to him how busy the *French King* was on his Coast, and what Vast Designs he had conceiv'd for the Improvement of his Naval Power, which was Visible by his

Fortifying of *Dunkirke*, in a most expensive manner, and Projecting Extraordinary Works there, making *Peers*, *Channels*, *Basins*, and every Provision that Art can Suggest, and Money Compass, to Render that Place easy of Access, and make it a safe, Capacious and Commodious *Harbour* for *Shipping*. I told his Majesty, that not only at *Dunkirk*, *Brest*, and other Places where nature and Situation had given them some Help and Encouragement to Prosecute their *Maritim Projects*, but even every where else upon his Coast, in every *Creek*, *Cove*, or *Inlet*, where they can make Depth of Water, and give the least *Harbour* and Retreat for *Shipping*, they are, and have been on that Article equally Industrious; which, as I had often told his Majesty, seem'd to me to have a very Evil Aspect on all the Maritime States of *Europe*, but more especially his Majesty. That nothing (humanly speaking) cou'd prevent and defeat the Mighty Purposes of that Ambitious Monarch, so much as his want of Natural Aid towards the Increase of his *Naval Strength*; his Coast not yielding him one good *Port* on all that *Frontier* which Regards us, which he most Providently weighing, had from an *Harbourless*, *Inhospitable Shoar*, by Art, Industry, and a most Lavish Expende of Treasure, in a very great Degree, Repair'd; Inasmuch that there is hardly 5 Leagues of Distance upon that Line, of their Coast Fronting ours, that does not yeild marks of their Care and Application. Barrs, Rocks and Shelves are remov'd, and Channels Opened and Deepned, to give safe and easy Entrance to such small Ports as they have by Nature. And in other Places where Art cou'd be thought to avail, they have spar'd no pains or Treasure to compass Artificial *Havens*, *Peers* and Provisions of Succour for *Shipping*. They have also Built Fortresses, rais'd *Batteries*, and Planted Cannon Innumerable, all along their Coast, and perform'd every wise and needful Work towards the attaining their Ends of becoming Formidable by Sea, and all this against the Grain, and as it were in Despight of Nature, which yeilds them little or no Encouragement. While we on our Coast, where Providence is so bountiful, have been so very little on our Guard, that tho' *Navigation* be the Prime Jewel



Jewel of the Crown, and is the Fountain and Foundation of both our Wealth and Safety; and without which we shou'd be a Contemptible Nation. have not only omitted to Improve the Tenders which Nature makes us for the Increase and Cultivating of our *Naval Power*; But have in this last Age consented to see many of our useful *Ports*, Run to Decay, and at length to Ruine, and to become totally lost to the Nation; which a very little Forefight, and as little charge might have prevented, while the Evil was Growing, which at a long Run becomes incurable. Among which Ports I instanc'd *Sandwich, Dover, Rye, Winchelsea, &c.* which were reckon'd heretofore as so many Bullworks against our Ambitious Neighbour. The King hereupon Reply'd, that he Confess'd he laid a little to heart the loss of the *Haven of Dover*, because it has fallen to decay mostly in his Reign; had yeilded him good Service in the First *Dutch War*, and in that which was made by the Parliament with that Nation, he was well assur'd that we had a Squadron of *Cruizers* which sail'd out of that Place, where they Fitted, Clean'd and Victuall'd, which did the Enemy more Dammage than any in the whole Channel beside. That therefore (if he thought that *Haven* could be recover'd by any Tolerable Charge) he was then more than ever dispos'd to ingage in such a Work, inasmuch as that he was well assur'd, that not only all that I had said was true, but that the *French King* (to whom tho' he had signify'd already by his Ambassador, That the great Bustle he had made upon the Coast had given Jealousy and Distaste to the Nation, and was not very pleasing to him) had nevertheless Engag'd very lately in a New Expensive Work of the same Nature, with those I had mention'd) in the Neighbourhood of *Galais*, where great Numbers of Men were then actually Employ'd in Fortifying the Coast, and making an Harbour, and Basin for Reception of Shipping, &c. Which being just under his Nose, he said he had so much the more Reason to Resent it, and which he cou'd not do in a better manner than by attempting the Recovery of *Dover Haven*, wherein if he Succeeded, as it wou'd give an occasion of Ease to the Peoples Jealousy, so it wou'd obviate in some

some Measure the Danger that Threatned us from so Restless and Projecting a Neighbour. I Reply'd to his Majesty, with great Joy, that I thought it wou'd be a most acceptable Instance to the Nation, of his Care for their safety, and a useful Proof to the Murmuring People of his Just Dislike and Suspicion of the *French King's* Proceedings, and that I was in no doubt whenever his Majesty shou'd appear to go in earnest, about so Laudable and Needful a Work, that the Parliament wou'd Frankly Assist him towards the Expence.

His Majesty hereupon Commanded me to make a Journey to *Dover* to Survey the Port, and Enable my self by the best means I cou'd, to give him a true State thereof in order to a Project for the Recovery of that Harbour, which order I carefully executed, and on my Return waited on his Majesty with my Report, together with a *Plan* and State of the present Peer, an History of the Services that Place had yeilded the Crown, how it has fallen to Decay, and how with least Charge it might be Repair'd and Render'd useful again. I told his Majesty that the bare Customes and Duties he had lost by the decay of that Port, which for want of Entrance there, as had been Customary (there being no other in many Leagues together on the Coast) and which were therefore now Smugled and totally lost, wou'd be by many Degrees more than enough when recover'd (and which wou'd most certainly accrue upon Restoring the Harbour) to Repay the utmost Charge he cou'd bear for its Repair and Improvement, which single Encouragement I thought was Incitement enough to go about so Noble, Useful and Reputable a Work.

I told his Majesty that the Port was at that time become intirely useles, the Peer within being Fill'd and Choak'd up with Sand and Mud, and the Depth of Water lost, That there was a Bank of Beach at the mouth of the Harbour of many Thousand Tuns, which Bar'd up the Entrance. That the Town (which was wont to abound in *Shipping, Seamen, Commerce, People and Plenty* of all things) was become Poor, desolate and Dispeopl'd, which was Visible every where, by their Decay'd Buildings and Habitations,



bitations, where half the Houses at least throughout the whole *Town* had Bills on the Doors; All which cou'd be ascrib'd to no other Reason than the Decay of their *Harbour*: touching the true Cause whereof, or the cure, the Inhabitants (with whom I had frequent Conference) cou'd give me little or no Light.

In this Audience, I gave his Majesty an Extensive Account of all things Relating to the Subject about which he had sent me: I presented him with a *Draught* of the then State of the *Port of Dover*, wherein was express'd the manner of it's Decay, and the present Ruinous Condition in which it was. I Endeavour'd also to explain to him how this Damage had come to pass, and by what means it had grown to that Head, as to have Render'd the *Haven* now almost lost to the *Publick*. From the Causes of the *Disease*, I proceeded to my Proposals for the *Remedy*, wherein I had the good Fortune to explain every Point of my Project, with Evidence enough to oblige his *Majesty* at that time to say that he was so well satisfy'd, that he was Resolv'd he wou'd not Defer the Work a Day. That as I had made every thing plain and intelligible to him; So above all, he was pleas'd with two most useful and Encourageing Propositions therein contain'd, Namely, That whereas in most great *Works* of that kind, *Princes* were Generally Oblig'd to Prosecute and go through the whole Expence (which for the most part was very great) before they cou'd Reap the least Profit of their Design, or be assur'd of the Success; While this Work on the contrary was so order'd and contriv'd by me, That he was sure to Receive a present Profit from every Sum (be it more or less) which he shou'd at any time think fit to lay out, and that the Benefit wou'd be presently seen, and Gather'd, in Proportion to the Charge he shou'd be at, which he might Limit or Respite as he pleas'd, without Danger of Damage to the Work that should be done, or of losing the Advantage that should be once gain'd in case of discontinuing the same.

The Second Point that pleas'd his Majesty was, That where-as all *Artificial Ports* that ever he had heard of (which is most true) were Subject to Choak, and fill up with Sand or Sullage, and to lose by degrees their Depth of Water, without great Care and a continual Charge to prevent it, and which was the

E

Cause

Cause for the most part of the decay and loss of such *Ports* to the Publick : That he perceiv'd i had plainly obviated that Evil, and by a New and very Demonstrable Invention had evidently Secur'd the Depth of Water for ever, which no Neglect cou'd hinder, or towards which any Expence or Annual Charge was Necessary.

I concluded with this General Incitement to his Majesty, That Multiplicity of Ports in a *Maritim Kingdom*, (such as his) was above all things to be wish'd; which in times of Peace was a great Means of Encouragement to our *Naval* Intercourse, and Coasting Trade, whereby our *Capital City*, became better supply'd, and at Cheaper Rates, with all things needful; that *Seamen* were Proportionably Propagated, *Shipping* and all the Incident Professions of *Shipwrightry* and *Navigation* increas'd and improv'd, &c. That in time of War, Shelter, and Defence against an Enemy was by that means more at Hand, whereby our Commerce was better Preserv'd, our *Frontier* so much the stronger, and *Cruizers* had more dispatch; and were better Spread and Dispos'd at Sea, because wheresoever there are *Ports* Commodiously Situate, and in the Road of our *Commerce*, there of course will be *Men of War* appointed and Entertrain'd in times of Hostility, where they can *Clean*, *Victual* and *Rest*, whereby great Expedition (which is the Life of Action) wou'd be obtain'd, and half the time gain'd that was spent in going to Remote *Ports*, as the *Thames*, *Chatham*, *Portsmouth*, &c. Where, if the Wind hangs out of the way, Ships lye long on *Demorage*, become Fowl by Staying for a Wind, and lose many Occasions of Service, which in *Ports* lying upon the Edge of our *Channel*, as *Dover* does, can never happen; where you need no Pylotage, and are no sooner out of the *Haven* but you are at Sea.

In a Word, I Ended my Discourse to his Majesty, with assuring him that *Dover* promis'd every thing he cou'd hope from such a *Port*; was Situate the nearest of all others to a *Great, Dangerous* and *Aspiring Neighbour*, who had given so many Instances of Wisdom and Foresight in the charge he had been at on that Line of his Coast which confronts ours, and which whenever his Majesty shou'd Chance to have a War with that People, wou'd

wou'd be found to turn every way both Offensively and Defensively to Marvellous Account.

That *Dover* stands on a *Promontory* which Survey's, and might be made to Command the greatest *Thorough-Fare* of *Navigation* in the World, where no ship can pass unobserv'd, or escape the danger of being attack'd, when there shou'd be cause, and was of the same use by *Sea* as a *Passe* is by *Land*. And, that there was no Design his Majesty cou'd Entertain for it's Strength and Improvement, that was not Compassable by Art, and that did not promise a Plentiful Return of Profit and Honour, of any the Greatest *Sum* he could spare to lay out upon it.

I departed at that time from his Majesty full of hopes, that what I had done and said on this Subject, wou'd have produc'd the good Effect of some speedy Resolution; but taking the Liberty some days after to remind him therein, I found him, to my great Disappointment, much calmer than I had left him, and receiv'd this short Answer, That it was a *Noble Project* indeed, but that it was too big for his present Purse, and wou'd Keep Cold. Shortly after I was Dispatch'd to my Business in a remote Country, and from that time to this have neither said nor heard any thing of *Dover*.

Now the Remark I wou'd make on this Sudden and Surprizing Coldness of the King's, is namely this, That the long Audience I then had of his Majesty, chanc'd to be in a certain great Ladies Apartment in *White-Hall*, where I had no sooner began my Discourse, and produc'd my Papers, when *Monf. Barrillon*, the *French* Ambassador, came in, who I observ'd to Listen with great Attention to what was debated; asking the said *Laay* very earnestly many Questions about the Subject Matter of our Conference, who I perceiv'd to Interpret to him every thing that was said on that occasion, as did the King afterwards in my hearing; Explaining the whole *Project*, and the Contents of the several *Designs*; Expressing his great Approbation of the Report I had made him; whereupon making Reflection on this Occurrence, I was no longer in doubt touching the cause of my Disappointment; but that it was not the *French* Kings Interest, and therefore not his Pleasure, that we shou'd proceed on this Work, and that so Noble a Project shou'd thus Die in the Birth,

Birth, who would have been contented (I make no Question) to have given ten times the amount of the *Cost* to defeat so National an undertaking, which look'd with so threatening an aspect on those great *Schemes* of *Naval* Power which he has since put in Execution, and is Prosecuting to this day, And I think it therefore becomes every hearty *English* Man to Conclude that such an Incident as I have here produc'd, ought to superadd one new and Solid Argument of Incitement to those that have been urg'd towards some solemn deliberation on so promising and Important a Subject, and if our Forefathers, in those darker times of Queen *Elizabeth*, saw a Reason for their Speculations on this Article, then when their views were narrow, their motives less, and the means to attain their purpose hardly to be compass'd through the Limited Funds of Treasure in those days, and the insufficiency of *Undertakers* to conceive, design, and Prosecute Works of that sort, so Magnificent, So new and out of the way of the Worlds Practice, It may therefore be hop'd, that now, when our motives of Danger, &c. are so visible, and so much Stronger, the means of obtaining so Noble an end every way more within our reach, while we behold by what Arts and Means, and with what Profusion of *Treasure*, a Neighbouring Prince pursues his *Maritim* Projects, and since we have seen and felt with what Effect he has succeeded in his Aims to Rival us by Sea, and in a word, while we know he must naturally ever be more than our Match by Land, and that nothing at this day can insure our safety, but a Demonstrable Superiority of *Naval* Strength. What greater *Wisdom* and *Precaution* can we Manifest, or how can we more laudably publish our Attention to the *Publick* *Welfare*, than by Seasonably obviating the Evils that seem to Threaten us by the growing *Naval* Power of *France*, towards which no one step we can make, promises better Fruit than this proposal of Recovering and Improving the *Haven* of *Dover*, which is by Nature Situate to our wish, and in my Humble Opinion is capable of being made by *Art* so useful to our selves and Friends, and so effectual to bridle, prevent and Annoy our *Enemies*; that were the Argument duly weigh'd, I am perswaded we shou'd think no Sum too great to be so Employ'd.